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Alexandre Bizotto

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Special contracts will be made with yearly advertisers.

Cashing a Check in Paris.

To one accustomed to our quick business movements in New York, and the especial aid with which banking operations are con-

...and with which banking operations are performed, it is quite ludicrous to enter a Paris bank and watch the performances there. If you present a check for payment, instead of handing it directly to the teller and getting your money instantly, or in two or three minutes at the latest [as in a New York bank,] you walk up to an officer in uniform, of whom there are a dozen walking about the counting

room, in large banks like the Credit Lyonnais, outside the space reserved for the clerks. He conducts you to one of the places constructed like cells, in which the bookkeepers are serving at a sentence of solitary confinement. You and your check to the prisoner's assistant, who hands it to his "boss." The latter consults a big ledger. If there is sufficient "spendulix" for the credit of the drawer, and the signature as all of its i's dotted and its t's crossed, he

turns it to the boy, who in turn hands to you, with the request that you pay two souls for a revenue stamp. This being gummed on the back, the deputy prison-er asks your address, then endorses it on the back of the draft, and you write your name across the revenue stamp with date, etc., and then a second time underneath your address. When done, you are presented with a broc-aded slip of the size of a suiver with a numeral upon it. You accept it modestly, believing it to be

not of L'Excellence d'Honneur arrangement, or a reward of merit. You are then requested to sit yourself on one of the numerous long settees ranged around the room, which you do, and wait till your turn arrives. After meditating in this position for a half hour on the transitory nature of life, the slowness of Frisco's clock officers, and kindred topics, after reading the morning papers through twice, including the advertisements, you begin to feel the need of a stimulant.

study the contentions of your neighbors, who have become quite resigned to this mode of transacting business, and would be alarmed if they should enter an American bank and draw their money in five minutes instead of half an hour. They would think there was something the matter with the coin—perhaps, or something of that sort.

wood panes and floor tiles likewise, an officer in another little den, dressed in a uniform composed chiefly of brass buttons and a big "plaque," the size of a dinner plate, on his left breast, yells out: "Quatre cent quatre vingt-treize!" Of course you don't know what that means, and sit stupidly wondering, but on repetition of the cry you consult your brass corset plate and find you hold "493." So up you march to the officer and present your medal, and in return he hands you a little bag of lumps

Winter in the Arctic Sea. A letter from Tokio, Japan, to the New York Herald gives an interesting description,

told by the distinguished voyager himself, of Nordenskjöld's winter in the Arctic sea. The Swedish navigator, it seems, was within two days' sail of the open sea—almost in sight of the Bering strait—when, on the 28th of September, 1878, the ice closed in on the *Vega* and detained him ten months, thus postponing for a period his arrival in Japan. The Professor and his gallant crew made the best of their

extension, however, the scientists lying in a large stock of valuable information. The thermometer was the most of the time 40 degrees below zero; yet not a single case of sickness occurred. They made friends with the natives on shore—no part of the globe, it would appear, being too black to be inhabited by the human kind—whom they found living in Arabian simplicity, without government and without crime. The men are described as huge

The weather remained below freezing point up to near the middle of June last. "On the 4th of June," adds the Herald correspondent, "there was a sudden change to milder weather. A heavy thaw set in, and the coast land was so covered with mud and slush that all excursions had to be discontinued, which, banding the ship, com-

nuver. The ice strong and the sailors did not
over, was still to leave before August. They
perhaps to be able to leave before August. They
to their ship there had been on the water and
ward, far from the ship. On the 16th and
of July an opening manifested itself along
the shore, but the ice was still tenacious of its
position. So Nordenskjöld determined to take
the steam launch to the sea, embark and visit
some whaling ships reported by the natives to
be near Behring Strait. By half past one in the
afternoon, when his preparations were almost
completed the ice which enclosed the Vega be-

ant) move. An hour later Captain Palander, who was prepared for every emergency, had teamed up. At half past three the ship was freed of a short distance westward to clear the ice, soon set her plow in the right direction, and experienced no further obstruction from ice in the Siberian Sea."

Nordenskjöld thinks the northeast passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans may be made every year; but he sees no direct benefit to trade between the two oceans likely to accrue from his discovery. He sees no difficulty, how-

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